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## NECROLOGY

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### WILLIAM HENRY SEAMAN, LL.B., M.D.

Dr. Seaman died, June 11, 1910, in the 73rd year of his age, and after a life of most varied and effective activity in scientific pursuits.

He has been an active member of this Society since 1886, and was its efficient Secretary from 1890 to 1895.

He was born November 1, 1837, in New York City, at the family residence in Broome Street, the son and only child of John G. and Ann R. (Wall) Seaman, both of them of the Society of Friends.

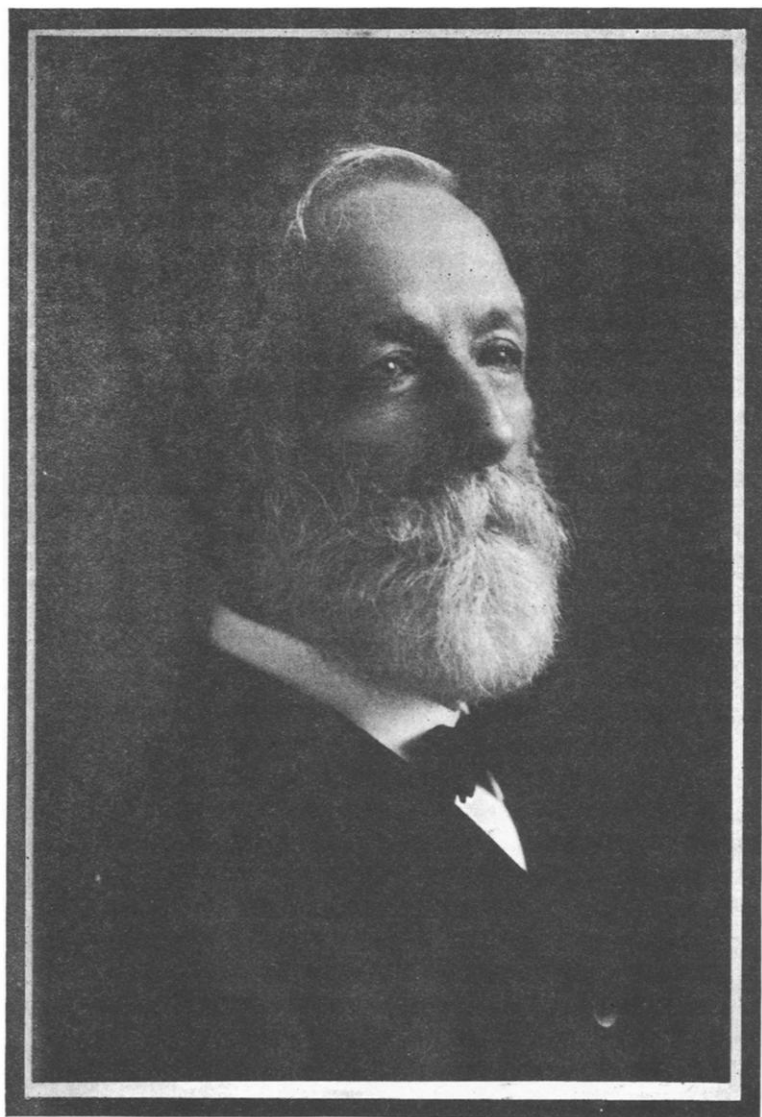
On his father's side he descended from Captain John Seaman, who received a patent of a large tract of land at Hempstead, L. I., about the year 1650. From him most of the Seaman family in America are descended. Dr. Seaman's mother was a native of Crosswicks, New Jersey, and was educated at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Until eleven years old, Dr. Seaman was educated by his mother. Afterward he attended a Friend's School in Hester Street, New York City, and assisted the principal of the school in preparing experiments in physics and chemistry, to illustrate the lectures.

When fifteen years old (in 1852) the family removed to Plainfield, New Jersey, and afterwards to Woodbury, New Jersey, where they remained until 1869, when Dr. Seaman came to Washington.

For ten years, 1869-79, Dr. Seaman was employed in the Department of Agriculture. In 1879 he was appointed an Assistant Examiner in the U. S. Patent Office; was promoted from time to time, finally to be principal Examiner. He held this position at the time of his death.

Shortly after coming to Washington he attended law lectures at the Columbian College Law School and in 1872 was graduated with the degree of LL. B.: the same year he was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia.



WILLIAM HENRY SEAMAN, LL.B., M.D.

June 27, 1871, he was appointed Lecturer in Botany in the Medical Department of Howard University. His connection with the Department continued until four days before his death, when he resigned.

Dr. Seaman was appointed September 21, 1874, Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department of Howard University and held this chair until he resigned. The title of the chair covered inorganic and organic Chemistry and toxicology, and included both didactic and laboratory work. In addition to this he also from time to time gave practical lectures on the microscope. When the Dental College was inaugurated in 1881, he became Professor also of Chemistry therein; and when the Pharmaceutical College was reorganized (1880-1) he became Professor of Chemistry in that College also. May 15, 1897, he was also made Lecturer on Botany in the Pharmaceutical College. These many duties occupied the major part of his evenings and he doubtless gave more of his time to the Medical School than any other member of the Faculty.

Dr. Seaman was ever ready and willing to assist the students and gave freely of his time and information for their advantage. It was the same with Faculty matters; his time and his "all round" acquirements were always at the service of the Medical Department. His knowledge of law and science and his general knowledge and clear judgment were repeatedly called upon and were always of value.

In 1883 the Honorary degree of M.D. was conferred upon him by Howard University.

Three times, namely, in 1890, 1900, 1910, he was appointed a delegate from the Medical School to the Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopoea.

In 1873 he married Miss Marianna Perkins Clark, of Londonderry, N. H., who survives him. There are no children.

Dr. Seaman contributed many articles to scientific and literary magazines.

He was a member of many scientific societies, and spoke with fluency both French and German, the latter being a language in which much of his work was done. He was member and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; corresponding member of The Maryland Academy of Science; mem-

ber of the Biological Society of Washington; member of the National Geographic Society; charter member, and in 1894 President of the Chemical Society of Washington; member of the American Chemical Society; for a number of years Abstractor of Chemical Patents for its journal; member and sometime President of the Washington Microscopical Society; member and sometime Secretary of the American Microscopical Society and during this service, editor of its journal. He was a charter member of the University Club of Washington; an early member of the Cosmos Club, of the Washington Society of the Fine Arts, and of the American Library Association, and an active member of the Playgrounds Association of Washington.

By birth a member of the Society of Friends, after his marriage he was a constant attendant of the First Congregational Church, a member of its Society and also of the Congregational Club of Washington.

S. L. LAMB, M.D.